



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

WENDY L. WATANABE
CHIEF DEPUTY

October 2, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *[Signature]*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – H.V. GROUP HOME, INCORPORATED**

We have completed a review of H.V. Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by H.V. Group Home, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

H.V. Group Home is a 29-bed facility, which provides care for boys and girls ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, H.V. Group Home was providing services for two DCFS children, nine probation children, nine children from other various counties, and two privately placed children.

H.V. Group Home is located in the Fourth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

H.V. Group Home needs to assess children for needed services within thirty days of placement and maintain current Needs and Services Plans.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:DC:CC:jdh

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Anthony Brown, Executive Director, H.V. Group Home, Inc.
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**H.V. Group Home
Long Beach, California 90813
License Number: 197803075
Rate Classification Level: 14**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

H.V. Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Four

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. However, one child was not assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are comprehensive and include short and long term goals. However, one child did not have a current NSP.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

1. HV management:

- a. Assess children for needed services within thirty days of placement.
- b. Maintain current Needs and Services Plans.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Four

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Four

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Four

Comments:

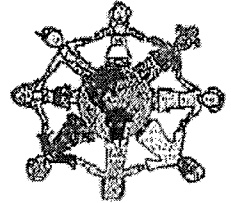
The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.



H.V. GROUP HOME, INC.

490 W. 14TH Street -- Long Beach, CA 90813
Phone: (562) 591-8701 -- Fax: (562) 591-6841

August 22, 2007

County of Los Angeles
Department of Auditor-Controller
Childrens Group Home Ombudsman
500 W. temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles Ca. 90012-2766

Enclosed you will find the Corrective Action Plan in response to the recent audit completed during the second quarter of 2007. The following information has been implemented to insure that this facility remains in compliance with requirements and in accordance with recommendations made by the Auditor.

H. V. Group Home will implement the following protocol to insure that compliance in the areas described is maintained.

A). Each resident will be assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement

- Effective September 1, 2007 H.V. Group Home will insure that each resident admitted to the Group Home receives a written evaluation for needed services within thirty days of placement.

B). H. V. Group Home, INC. will maintain a current Needs and Services Plan for each minor placed.

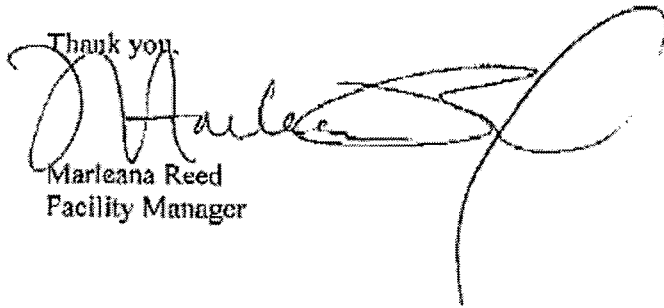
- H. V. Group Home will insure that a current Needs and Services Plan is initiated within 30 days from the date of admission and continued every 90 days thereafter.

The Social Services Director will review and maintain all Needs and Services Plans and will insure that the form is complete and through and inclusive of specified services. The Needs and Services Plan will be tailored to each resident and be reflective of measureable goals that will be attainable for each individual. Each Needs and Services Plan will detail and include objectives for learning, coping skills and outcomes.

The Facility Manager will insure via (weekly audit) that each minor placed has been evaluated for needed services within thirty days of placement and that each minors file is inclusive of a current Needs and Services Plan which is up-dated every 90 days from the date of admission. H.V. Group Home's Administrator will insure that this corrective action continues without interruption.

If any additional information is required Please do not hesitate to contact me at (562) 5918701 ext. 227.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marleana", followed by a large, stylized flourish that extends to the right.

Marleana Reed
Facility Manager